

Cadmium (Elias)

On December 1, 2015, EPA published the draft cadmium criteria document in the *Federal Register*.¹ The 60-day public comment period ends on February 1, 2016, and EPA plans to publish the final criteria on March 30, 2016. To date, EPA has not received many public comments. In the final document, EPA plans to expand on the data on the *Hyaella azteca* (the most sensitive organism in the chronic criterion). EPA reanalyzed the data using a test by Ingersoll and determined that the test was acceptable. In the revised document, EPA will include additional details on that decision process.

Is There Any Feedback or Follow-up from the 2015 Invited Expert Meeting on Guideline Revisions for Deriving Aquatic Life Criteria? (Elias)

EPA hosted an invited expert meeting September 14–16, 2015, to discuss revising the guidelines for deriving aquatic life criteria in the future. Since then, smaller workgroups have been trying to outline a path forward. In addition, HECD and ORD are working on defining key issues on which to focus in revising the guidelines. Going forward, there will be an Agency workgroup and opportunities for external peer review and comments. The overall goal will be to balance the need to develop criteria more quickly to be responsive to needs with updating the range of tools available since the 1985 guidance was developed. The process of developing a set of draft guidelines will likely take several years.

Note: EPA will post presentations from the meeting on its website in the near future.

¹ See <http://www.epa.gov/wqc/aquatic-life-criteria-cadmium>.